



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY Health Department

1930 Ninth Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
PH: 406.4HEALTH or 406.443.2584
Fax: 406.457.8990

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Mike Henderson, Public Health Nurse, 406-457-8914
Gayle Shirley, Communications Coordinator, 406-457-8908

Second Rabid Bat Found at Holter Lake Campground

For the second time this season, a bat found at the Holter Lake Campground has tested positive for rabies, the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department reported Thursday.

Rabies is nearly always fatal if not treated. Health officials urge anyone who had direct contact with a bat at the campground since early June to call the health department immediately to determine if rabies treatment is needed.

“Our advice to people is never touch a bat,” said Mike Henderson, administrator of the Disease Control Division of the health department. “There’s always a small percentage of bats that have rabies, so the best way to protect your health is to avoid contact with all of them.”

Rabies is transmitted through infected saliva via a bite, scratch or other break in the skin. Treatment involves a series of vaccinations that should begin as soon as possible after exposure.

People who had no direct contact with a bat are not at risk, but parents should check with their children to find out if they touched or played with a bat while at the campground.

Campers should also make sure their pets have current rabies vaccinations.

For more information on bats and rabies, call the health department at 443-2584, or visit the department’s website at www.LewisAndClarkHealth.org.

The Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department’s mission is to improve and protect the health of all Lewis & Clark County residents.

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